

In connection with the Office Action mailed on November 14, 2000 regarding the above-referenced Application, Applicants respectfully request consideration of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the Brief Description of the Drawings as follows:

Figure 1A is a block diagram illustrating a universal auction specification system in accordance with one embodiment of the invention;

Figure 1B is a block diagram illustrating modules in a programmable auction server in accordance with one embodiment of the invention;

Figure 2 is a block diagram of the programmable auction server in accordance with one embodiment of the invention;

Figure 3 is a flow diagram illustrating the bidding process in accordance with one embodiment of the invention;

Figure 4 illustrates a block diagram of a three-tiered architecture of a universal auction specification system in accordance with one embodiment of the invention; and

Figure 5 illustrates a three-tiered architecture of a universal auction specification system implementing techniques of the invention.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, line 15, beginning with "**Figures 1A through 1B**" as follows:

Figures 1A through 1B illustrate various embodiments of the invention in

which a universal auction specification system of the invention may include a

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variety of components such as a Market Specification Console ("MSC") 110, a Universal Trading Console ("UTC") 120, a Universal Surveillance Console ("USC") 130, a Market Administration Console ("MAC") 150, PAS 140, web server(s) 162, databases (112, 136), firewalls 164, and a communication network 160 and 161 linking various components. These components may be stored or operated in a single computer system or in a plurality of computer systems connected by a network.

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Please replace the paragraph on page 7, line 21, beginning with "PAS 140 includes" as follows:

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PAS 140 includes a computer that runs a computer program that may accept multiple market protocols submitted to it from an MSC 110 and execute multiple market protocols (*e.g.*, opening auctions, admitting or rejecting bids, clearing prices, notifying traders of market events, and closing auctions). More specifically, PAS 140 employs several modules to control the market operation. Modules such as bid verifier, release information manager, and clearer assist in managing the market by processing incoming bids, responding to queries, maintaining market state (*e.g.*, tracking bids, etc.), and reporting results to traders and optionally to non-traders. Through these modules, various transactions may be performed such as bid verification (*e.g.* does a bid from a trader qualify as a "bid" under the rules), release of information (*e.g.*, show all the current bids), a clear (*e.g.* clear the prices or bids), registration of information (*e.g.* name and phone number of the trader), and a bid transformation. In the preferred embodiment, various components are organized into a complete system through a 3-tier architecture bounded by double firewalls 164 as shown in **Figure 1A**.

Located between firewalls 122 is database 112 which is, for example, one or more large structured sets of data typically associated with software to update and query the data. Database 112, a front-end database, is connected to web server(s) 162 that form the interface between a user and the back-end of a universal auction specification system.

Please replace the paragraph on page 22, line 10, beginning with "**Figures 2 and 3**" as follows:

Figure 2 illustrates a block diagram of modules in PAS 140 and **Figure 3** illustrates a flow diagram of a bidding process that use modules in PAS 140 in accordance with one embodiment of the invention. Here, a bid (*e.g.* \$100) is submitted by Trader A at operation 600. The bid is sent to the bid verifier 151 at operation 610. Bid verifier 151 receives the bid and uses the bid by incorporating the bid in the TPs set by the market designer. At operation 610, the bid verifier determines whether the bid is acceptable. If the bid satisfies the minimum standards for an acceptable bid established by the market designer, the bid is verified as an acceptable bid and is placed into the order book/clearer 154 at operation 640. If the bid fails to meet these minimum standards, the bid is rejected and Trader A is notified that his bid is unacceptable. Information manager 152 notifies Trader A by transmitting the rejection to Trader A at operation 625. Similarly, proxy bidder 509 may also submit a bid to the bid verifier 151. This bid undergoes the same process as listed above. The trader(s) who submitted the proxy bid is notified through the information manager 152 as to whether the proxy bid is acceptable or is unacceptable.